

Approved For Release 1999/09/09 : CIA-RDP82-00457R003600490012-0

REPORT NO.

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

25X1A

LOFAX 11

COUNTRY Indochina/Thailand

DATE DISTR. 10 NOV 1949

SUBJECT Recent Activities and Tactics of Xom

NO. OF PAGES 1

25X1A

PLACE
ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF INFO

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

25X1X

1. Xom receives very few visitors, attends virtually no social gatherings, and has no open contacts with any foreigners. Xom's principal Thai friends are members of the editorial staff of Mahachon. His contacts with them are kept secret from all except his close associates. Xom's contacts with members of the staff of the Chinese Communist newspaper Chuan Min Pao are also kept secret.
2. Xom has little direct contact with Thai newspapermen. Xom is using an intermediary, a Vietnamese named Saveng (Vietnamese name Chin), to conduct a systematic campaign among Thai newspapermen to persuade them to cooperate with the Viet Nam News Service by printing as much as possible of the official handouts of the Viet Nam News Service, by writing or re-writing articles based on such handouts, and by writing original articles based on information and opinions given to them verbally by Saveng. The information and opinions transmitted by Saveng are often quite different from the official handouts of the Viet Nam News Service. They are more frankly anti-American, anti-Chinese Nationalist, and pro-Communist.
3. This policy of infiltrating the Thai press by personal contact was begun about a year ago and has brought most impressive results in the form of pro-Viet Minh and anti-American articles in the Thai press. Xom is fully satisfied with the results. Finances for this maneuver have been provided directly from the treasury of the Viet Nam Delegation in Bangkok and not from the treasury of the Viet Nam News Service.*

Comment. The prevalent view that the whole force of Communism in Thailand is exercised through the Chinese neglects the important role of the Vietnamese Communists in Thailand. The Vietnamese have the advantage of not being subjected to the general attitude of contempt mixed with jealousy that the Thai show toward the Chinese. Xom's direct relations with Mahachon and his indirect relations with the Thai press may be important in the spread of Communism in Thailand.

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Document No. 11
No Change in Class. X
☐ Declassified
Class. Changed To: IS S C
Auth: HQ 78-2
Date: 1979-3 By: 026